

# The Closed-Loop Scoop

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## State's Solid Waste Plan

Ecology continues to coordinate an effort to revise the state solid waste plan, last updated in 1991. According to state law, the plan is to serve as a blueprint or guide for the future, encompassing all solid waste activities throughout the state.

Between March and June of this year, 16 round table meetings were held around the state to gather initial input on the revision to the state solid waste plan. A series of four meetings was held in each of the following locations: Wenatchee, Vancouver, Spokane, and Seattle. One hundred and sixty-five people attended one of more of the meetings, with many attending all four meetings in their area. While most of the participants were from local government, some people from the solid waste industry, environmental interests, business, and community/civic groups also participated. Several people traveled long distances to attend the meetings. Ecology would like to express its appreciation to the meeting participants, who shared a great deal of valuable information and perspective that is helping to define the priorities to address in the plan revision.

Meeting attendees reviewed and responded to a draft vision statement for the long-term that emphasizes sustainability. Participants also worked in groups to generate ideas for issues to be addressed in the state solid waste plan, and to suggest potential strategies and solutions. These meetings were designed to gather preliminary input, so they were not decision-making meetings. The input is being used to determine areas of focus for the state plan revision.

While priorities and perspectives varied in different areas of the state, many more similarities than differences were expressed. For example, meeting attendees from all four locations agreed that a long-range vision for solid waste should be based on principles of sustainability and should center on waste reduction, pollution prevention, energy conservation, and material reuse. (A working definition of sustainability is "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." For more information about sustainability, please visit Ecology's Sustainability Web site at [www.ecy.wa.gov/sustainability](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/sustainability).)

### ***Stay TUNED!***

Information about the round table meetings (including driving directions) can be found on the State Solid Waste Plan Web site. Also, Ecology will be posting project updates on the Web site in the future. The site address is

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/swplan/>.

In addition, meeting participants largely agreed that top priority issues to address in the state plan revision include the following:

- ◆ Actual and complete costs of solid waste.
- ◆ Changing behaviors and attitudes.
- ◆ Recycling.
- ◆ Consumer and industry incentives.
- ◆ Addressing special waste streams.
- ◆ Funding for government solid waste programs.
- ◆ Product stewardship.
- ◆ Recycling market development.
- ◆ Reduction of toxins.
- ◆ Waste prevention.
- ◆ Landfills.

Ecology staff is reviewing all of this input and is developing a recommended approach and schedule for completing the plan revision. This will be made available sometime in the late fall and will include detailed information about next steps in the plan revision process and opportunities for involvement and review.

# Pesticide Stewardship Conference

Plans are being finalized now for the National Pesticide Stewardship Alliance (NPSA) annual conference to be held from November 27 to December 1, 2001, in Memphis, Tennessee. The NPSA requests the assistance of household hazardous waste (HHW) programs to present case studies of successful pesticides/pesticides container collections as a part of HHW programs. Abstracts of 100 words or less should be submitted to Allen Felsot, Washington State University, [afelsot@tricity.wsu.edu](mailto:afelsot@tricity.wsu.edu), or to M.L. Robinson, University of Nevada, [nlpalms@juno.com](mailto:nlpalms@juno.com)/. Accepted paper presenters will receive a \$100 discount and panel presenters a \$50 discount off the cost of the registration fee.

Topics that have already been identified include:

- Emerging federal, local, and state regulatory trends and changes; scientific and political issues shaping national and local policy.
- Worker protection.
- New developments in pesticide waste disposal, container recycling, and policy.
- Packaging and formulation trends.
- International pesticide stewardship challenges/successes.
- Developments in bio-rational technologies.
- Best management practices for drift, run off, and leachate management.
- Private/public sector educational programs and materials.
- Pesticide application in schools and other sensitive areas.
- E-commerce and other pesticide stewardship challenges/opportunities.



The conference will be preceded by one day of training, including courses on OSHA, DOT, environmental assessment, and permanent facility management. Last year's inaugural conference was attended by over 135 participants. The NPSA expects even greater participation in 2001.

Mark your calendar for the NPSA conference on August 27 to 30, 2002, to be held in downtown Seattle, Washington. For logistical questions, contact Kathy Brooks at 202-550-0587 or [kbrooks@arrowchase.com](mailto:kbrooks@arrowchase.com)/. As it is available, information on the conference will be posted on the NPSA's web site: [www.npsalliance.org/](http://www.npsalliance.org/).

## Local Agencies Call for Computer Recycling

The computer and electronics revolution of the last two decades has left thousands of Washington households and small businesses with aging or obsolete products in need of refurbishing or recycling. Increasing numbers of Washington consumers are asking how they can do the right thing environmentally and see that their old products are reused or recycled rather than simply disposed of in a landfill. Similarly, local governments are wondering how they can cover the costs and liabilities associated with increasing volumes of electronic scrap ending up in the waste disposal system.

While a number of computer and electronic reuse and recycling businesses have started up in Washington, developing a convenient and efficient system with sufficient processing capacity to deal with this growing product stream will be a major task. Many believe that the best system will be developed through a product stewardship approach. Under a product stewardship approach, all those involved in production and use of a product share responsibility for managing the costs and other impacts of a product on society and the environment. Development of an environmentally responsible system for used electronics would involve electronics product manufacturers and retailers, consumers, and governments. Advocates of product stewardship for electronics also hold that the approach can create incentives to produce more easily recyclable products in the future.

In the Northwest a set of meetings involving the electronics industry, government, nonprofit organizations, recyclers, and others started in July to decide how best to implement a product stewardship program for electronic products in the Northwest. These meetings, under the auspices of the Northwest Product Stewardship Council and called the Western Electronic Product Stewardship Initiative, will also be a channel for input to the national dialogue.

The National Electronics Product Stewardship Initiative includes fourteen government representatives, including Cullen Stephenson, Director of the Washington State Department of Ecology's Solid Waste Section, and Sego Jackson, a principal planner with Snohomish County. A number of local governments, including King, Kitsap, and Clark Counties, Metro (Portland), and City of Seattle, are coordinating their input to the NEPSI dialogue through the position held by Snohomish

County. Region 10 EPA, Department of Ecology, and local governments are also working together on product stewardship issues through the Northwest Product Stewardship Council.

Representatives from state and local government agencies in the Northwest are participating not only in the National Electronics Product Stewardship Initiative (NEPSI), but also in local product stewardship efforts for electronics. The national stakeholder dialogue can provide an overall framework, but ultimately collection and recycling programs will need to be rolled out in communities across the Northwest. Local cities and counties and the State of Washington's Department of Ecology are extremely interested in ensuring that the national dialogue leads to development of local opportunities that provide environmentally responsible and convenient service for Washington consumers not just in the major metropolitan areas but across the state. Ideally, this will be done at minimum cost to the taxpayer, with costs covered primarily by manufacturers, retailers, and the consumer.

For more information about local governments' involvement in the National Electronics Product Stewardship Initiative, contact Sego Jackson, Principal Planner, Snohomish County at 425-388-6490 or e-mail to [sego.jackson@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:sego.jackson@co.snohomish.wa.us)

For more information about Washington State Department of Ecology's involvement in the National Electronics Product Stewardship Initiative, contact Cullen Stephenson, Program Manager, Solid Waste and Financial Assistance Program at 360-407-6103 or e-mail to [cste461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:cste461@ecy.wa.gov). Or you may contact Chipper Hervieux, Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program at 360-407-6756 or e-mail to [pher461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:pher461@ecy.wa.gov).

For more information about the Western Electronic Product Stewardship Initiative, contact Wayne Rifer at 503-777-0909 or e-mail to [wrifer@concentric.net](mailto:wrifer@concentric.net).

For more information about Northwest governments' involvement in other product stewardship activities for electronics and the Northwest Product Stewardship Council, contact David Stitzhal at 206-723-0528 or e-mail to [fullcircle@nwnexus.com](mailto:fullcircle@nwnexus.com).



## National Dialogue Begins to Develop Reuse and Recycling Solutions for Used Electronic Products

Representatives from electronics manufacturers, government agencies, environmental groups, and others met formally for the first time last week in San Francisco to develop a joint plan in the United States for managing used electronics. This "product stewardship" initiative involves a sharing of responsibility for the reuse and recycling of electronics by those who produce, sell, and use these products.

With the growing number of obsolete electronics, there is an increasing demand for facilities that manage used electronics. The infrastructure for collecting, reusing, and recycling electronics in the United States has not kept pace with this growing concern and all parties involved--federal, state and local governments, manufacturers, retailers, recyclers, and environmental groups--are working together to address this issue.

The National Electronics Product Stewardship Initiative (NEPSI), which was organized in late April of this year, consists of 45 participants, split evenly among industry, government, and a third group that includes environmental groups, recyclers, and retailers. The NEPSI group's main goal for the dialogue, agreed to in San Francisco, is "the development of a system, which includes a viable financing mechanism, to maximize the collection, reuse, and recycling of used electronics, while considering appropriate incentives to design products that facilitate source reduction, reuse, and recycling; reduce toxicity; and increase recycled content." NEPSI participants also reached agreement on the types of electronic products to be included in this system, as well as a number of general attributes that a national system should contain to effectively collect, reuse, and recycle electronics.

The group has agreed to meet six times over the next year, while rotating meetings around the country to acknowledge the unique regional circumstances faced by state and local agencies. Participants hope that this dialogue will result in a voluntary national agreement that will obviate the need for regulatory or statutory action, and will lower the cost of recycling by coordinating state efforts. Over 20 state environmental agencies are actively engaged in the dialogue.

The University of Tennessee's Center for Clean Products and Clean Technologies (CCPCT) is coordinating the NEPSI process under a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. CCPCT Director, Gary Davis, who is facilitating the meetings, says this series of meetings "is a unique process for bringing stakeholders together to address this important problem. This group is extremely knowledgeable about the issues and is highly motivated. In fact, members are already discussing possible product stewardship models for the system of collection, reuse, and recycling."

For additional information regarding NEPSI, contact any of the following NEPSI Core Group members:

#### INDUSTRY

Heather Bowman	Electronic Industries Alliance	703-907-7582
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#### GOVERNMENT

Scott Cassel	Product Stewardship Institute	978-934-4855
Maureen Hickman	Minnesota Office of Env'l Assistance	651-215-0271
Sego Jackson	Snohomish County, Washington	425-388-6490
Clare Lindsay	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	703-308- 7266

#### ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Ted Smith	Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition	408-287-6707
Jeremiah Baumann	Public Interest Research Group	202-546-9707

## Hewlett-Packard Launches Electronic Equipment Take-Back Program

Hewlett-Packard announced on May 21 that it will now take back computer equipment made by any manufacturer, including PCs and monitors, printers, scanners, switchers, routers—even calculators and hand-held organizers. Working equipment will be donated to charitable organizations, and parts may be reused. The rest will be processed to recover any usable material.

Hewlett-Packard's program is similar to those instituted by other computer manufacturers and retailers, including International Business Machines (IBM) and Gateway. Hewlett-Packard charges a fee of \$13 to \$34 (depending on the items), which offsets the cost of shipping and the actual recycling.

"There is some value in these old computers in terms of their precious and base metals," said Chris Altobell, the business development manager for the Product Recycling Solutions Group at Hewlett-Packard headquarters in Palo Alto, California, "but the cost of retrieving that value is actually more than the metals are worth." If consumers and manufacturers share the responsibility for keeping harmful electronic equipment out of landfills, he added, then everyone benefits.

The need for recycling and reuse has grown as fast as the rate of computer obsolescence. The average life span of a computer is now less than three years. According to a National Recycling Coalition report, 20 million computers became obsolete in 1998, but only 11 percent were recycled—and corporations were responsible for the bulk of that.

In the last year computer manufacturers have started offering recycling and reuse programs to individuals and small businesses. IBM (<http://www.ibm.com/ibm/environment>) takes back any manufacturer's computer equipment for \$29.95, and Sony has a free take-back program for Sony products in Minnesota. Gateway (<http://www.gateway.com/recycle>) offers rebates toward future purchases to customers who return their old computers to designated collection sites.

Hewlett-Packard has recycled and reused computers from corporate clients for more than a decade. It even has its own electronics recycling plant in Roseville, California, which is jointly operated by Micro Metalics Corporation, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Noranda, a Canadian mining company. The Roseville plant processes about four million pounds of equipment a month, and the company plans to open a similar plant in Nashville in July.

People interested in sending their equipment to Hewlett-Packard for reuse and recycling can go to <http://www.hp.com/go/recycle>. If there are fewer than 10 items, the site will take the owner's credit card information and arrange for Federal Express to pick them up (the parts need to be boxed). If there are more than 10 items, Hewlett-Packard will quote a price for the fee.

Hewlett-Packard will begin a similar fee-based program in Europe on June 1, followed by Canada later in the year. Depending on demand, the company will also look at expanding the program to Asia and Latin America.



## EIA Announces Industry Pilot Project for Electronics Recycling

The Electronic Industries Alliance, in cooperation with Canon, Hewlett-Packard, JVC, Kodak, Nokia, Panasonic, Philips Electronics, Sharp, Sony, and Thomson, has announced the development of an innovative electronics collection and recycling pilot project. Scheduled to launch in October, the pilot will test several different models of electronics collection and recycling. From the pilot, participants hope to generate data that will help guide the development of a cost-effective and efficient long-term electronics recycling program.

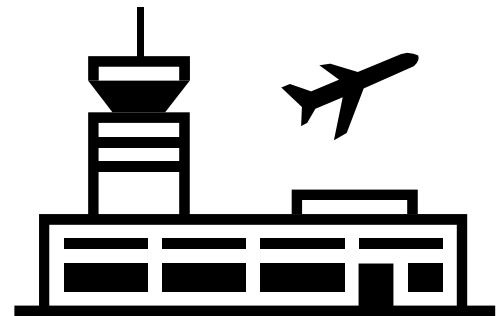
"Our industry is committed to lessening the environmental impact of our products from design to end-of-life. It is critical that we move forward quickly in finding electronics recycling programs that work," said EIA President Dave McCurdy. "We believe EIA's Electronics Recycling Pilot Project will help us with this goal by providing a solid base of knowledge we can use to determine the best long-term approach for any electronics recycling program."

The pilot will take place in selected states. Several different models of collection and recycling, and their financing, will be tested for a one-year period.

Today's announcement builds on EIA's ongoing efforts to address issues surrounding end-of-life electronics. In February, EIA kicked off its Consumer Education Initiative (CEI) in an industry-led effort to encourage consumers to reuse and recycle used electronics. As part of the CEI, EIA launched a Web site, [www.eiae.org](http://www.eiae.org), that directs users to local charities, schools, neighborhood and community demanufacturers and other local and national recycling programs that collect used electronics. It is the most comprehensive clearinghouse of recycling opportunities available, and has received over 30,000 visitors since its inception this February.

## Sea-Tac Airport to Expand Recycling Program and Reduce Waste

Seattle-Tacoma International Airport has signed an agreement with Corporate Recycling Services, Inc. (CRS), a Tacoma firm, to assist the Airport in expanding their efforts in solid waste reduction and recycling. Sea-Tac Airport currently recycles cardboard, paper, and other items. Their goal is to divert as much waste as possible from going to a landfill and to be a part of the environmental solution as a good corporate citizen in the Puget Sound community. The Airport plans to include all administrative areas, stores, tenants, and public areas in the project. Corporate Recycling Services (CRS) is a consulting services firm specializing in custom-tailored "comprehensive waste reduction and recycling programs" for commercial and industrial clients.



Since 1992 CRS has implemented programs in some 20 plants and distribution centers in Pierce County and at SeaTac Mall in Federal Way. Their programs are designed to divert all solid waste from landfills and turn the otherwise wasted materials to useful purposes with a goal of recycling, reducing, or reusing 100% of all solid waste generated. These programs have been quite successful, as most of CRS's clients are diverting more than 80% of their solid wastes from landfills. Sea-Tac Airport will be the firm's largest project to date. Since 1995, their clients have won fourteen awards for environmental excellence from the Association of Washington Business (AWB), Seattle Downtown Rotary, Washington State Recycling Association (WSRA), Department of Ecology, and other organizations. Their heretofore-largest client, Nalley's Fine Foods of Tacoma, was named by the WSRA and Washington Department of Ecology as "Recycling Business of the Year" for 1995. Just last week two of their clients, Weyerhaeuser Building Materials in Tacoma and Trident Seafoods of Fife, received AWB Environmental Excellence Awards at the downtown Seattle Sheraton Hotel. Recently, Corporate Recycling Services was presented by the Southwest King County Chamber of Commerce with their Outstanding Business Award of 2000 in the small business at large category.

Founded in 1992, CRS was formed by Bob O'Neal, who, as an executive at Pay 'n Save Drug Stores, was responsible for that firm achieving a chain-wide 92% recycling rate in 1991. He had pioneered internal waste reduction and public recycling programs at Pay 'n Save Corporation since 1983. In 1989, he made Pay 'n Save the first-ever company on the West Coast to collect and recycle customers' plastic shopping bags, pill bottles, and telephone books.

Contact: Bob O'Neal, President, Corporate Recycling Services, Tacoma, Washington at 253-752-8242, or email at [WRONeal@aol.com](mailto:WRONeal@aol.com)

## Calendar of Events

### 16th Annual Hazardous Waste Conference

The 16th Annual Hazardous Waste Conference for Household and Small Business Programs will be held **September 4 to 8, 2001**, at the Portland Marriott Downtown. Portland, Oregon. Find more information at [www.nahmma.org](http://www.nahmma.org).

### 4th Annual Used Building Materials Association Conference, "Harvesting the Future"

The 4th Annual Used Building Materials Association Conference, "Harvesting the Future," will be held **September 5 to 8, 2001**, at the Portland Hilton, Portland, Oregon. Contact the Used Building Material Association at 1-877-221-UBMA (8262) or <http://www.ubma.org/>.

### National Recycling Coalition's 20th Annual Congress & Exposition

The National Recycling Coalition's 20th Annual Congress & Exposition will be held from **September 30 to October 3, 2001**, in Seattle, Washington. Watch <http://www.nrc-recycle.org> for more information, or contact Rebecca Mebane, 703-683-9025 ext. 206, [RebeccaM@nrc-recycle.org](mailto:RebeccaM@nrc-recycle.org), or Luke Miller, 703-683-9025 ext. 212, [LukeM@nrc-recycle.org](mailto:LukeM@nrc-recycle.org).

Are you interested in attending the NRC Congress this fall (September 30 through October 3 in Seattle) but have budget limitations? Then why not consider volunteering? The Washington State Recycling Association (WSRA) is organizing volunteers for the Congress and if you fit the description above we are interesting in talking to you. Volunteers who work more than 12 hours get a free conference registration. Volunteers working under 12 hours also get discounts. Contact Charlene Gallagher at 253-593-7708, [cgalagher@ci.tacoma.wa.us](mailto:cgalagher@ci.tacoma.wa.us), or Bill Reed at 206-296-4402, [bill.reed@metrokc.gov](mailto:bill.reed@metrokc.gov).

### The Seventeenth International Conference on Solid Waste Technology and Management

The Seventeenth International Conference on Solid Waste Technology and Management will be held from **October 21 to 24, 2001**, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. For information on exhibiting at the conference, contact [solid.waste@widener.edu](mailto:solid.waste@widener.edu).

### Washington State Recycling Association's 22nd Annual Conference and Call for Abstracts

The Washington State Recycling Association's 22nd Annual Conference will be held **May 5 to 8, 2002**, at the Wenatchee Convention Center, Wenatchee, Washington. Present your "cutting edge" work at Washington's premier recycling conference. Submit an abstract relating to recycling, reuse, and waste reduction. Send Abstracts to Janet Nazy, WSRA, [janetn@wsra.net](mailto:janetn@wsra.net). Submit your abstract by 10/16/01. If you have questions, contact Agenda Committee Chair Jim Schrock, 509-534-1638 or [jschrock@cet.com](mailto:jschrock@cet.com), or Janet Nazy at WSRA, 206-244-0311 or [janetn@wsra.net](mailto:janetn@wsra.net).

### National Pesticide Stewardship Alliance Annual Conference

The National Pesticide Stewardship Alliance Annual Conference will be held **August 27 to 30, 2002**, in downtown Seattle, Washington. Contact Kathy Brooks at 202-550-0587 or [kbrooks@arrowchase.com/](mailto:kbrooks@arrowchase.com/). Information on the conference will be posted on the NPSA's web site as it is available: [www.npsalliance.org/](http://www.npsalliance.org/).

## Helpful Links

### Sustainable Industry: Travel And Tourism

Travel and tourism exact significant environmental costs; this Web site--an extension of the EPA's Office of Policy Development--is a good place to start your research. Grab hot reports on sustainable travel and check out the cache of links.

<http://www.epa.gov/sustainableindustry/travtour.htm>

### Toenail Environmental Resources Library

Toenail Environmental Resources Library Web site has a multitude of links to information related to zero waste.

<http://www.toenail.org/resources.html>

## Read This Newsletter Online!

*The Closed-Loop Scoop* newsletter should not create waste. If we need to make changes to our mailing list, please contact Jim Bill at 360-407-6125. If you would like to receive a copy of the newsletter via e-mail please send a message to [jbil461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:jbil461@ecy.wa.gov) with the subject line reading "Subscribe Closed-Loop Scoop."

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